



Department of Justice

United States Attorney David L. Huber
Western District of Kentucky

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CONTACT: SANDY FOCKEN
PHONE: (502) 582-5911
FAX: (502) 582-5097

**MEMPHIS MAN SENTENCED FOR ROLE IN MULTI-STATE CONSPIRACY
TO PASS COUNTERFEIT PAYROLL CHECKS**

Defendant Passed Checks in at Least Seven States

OWENSBORO, KY - Michael L. Sanders, age 31, formerly of Cordova, TN, was sentenced on June 4, 2007, to 3 years and 10 months imprisonment in United States District Court, Owensboro, Kentucky, for conspiracy to make, utter and possess a forged security of an organization operating in interstate commerce, U.S. Attorney David L. Huber of the Western District of Kentucky announced today. Joseph H. McKinley, Judge, United States District Court, also ordered that the federal sentence imposed today be served concurrent to an eight year sentence of imprisonment Sanders is serving in Mississippi. Judge McKinley also ordered Sanders to serve 3 years of supervised release following incarceration. There is no parole in the federal judicial system. In addition, restitution in the amount of \$7,511.43 was imposed.

Sanders had been found guilty by a jury in Owensboro in March of this year of knowingly conspiring with others in June and July of 2003 to create and pass counterfeit payroll checks in Evansville, Indiana; Henderson, Kentucky; Bowling Green, Kentucky; Owensboro, Kentucky; Louisville, Kentucky; and Danville; Illinois. The evidence at trial also established that Sanders had traveled to West Virginia and Ohio to attempt to pass counterfeit payroll checks. Sanders has prior state convictions in Arkansas and Mississippi for making and passing counterfeit checks.. Between June 9, 2003, and July 21, 2003, the co-conspirators passed at least

120 counterfeit payroll checks ranging in amounts from approximately \$200 to \$600 per check. Sanders and his co-conspirators produced the checks on a computer and printer in a hotel room, and recruited other individuals from the area to present the counterfeit checks for cash at local grocery stores, convenience stores, liquor stores, and pawn shops. The total loss resulting from the passing of the counterfeit checks was just over \$50,000.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Marisa J. Ford, and it was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, along with the Owensboro Police Department, Bowling Green Police Department, and Danville, Illinois Police Department.

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